

Thank you for supporting TWF's biggest IWD Lunch to date!

Dear TWF friends

Thank you to everyone who supported The Women's Foundation's biggest ever International Women's Day Gala Lunch which raised HK\$1.5 million for its community programmes in aid of disadvantaged women and girls and a new documentary exploring the role of the media in creating and exacerbating gender stereotypes. □□

Held at The Renaissance Harbour View Hotel, the event was sponsored by Thomson Reuters and attended by over 550 senior banking and corporate executives, Government representatives, leaders of corporate women's networks and the media. □□

Distinguished guests included Anson Chan – Former Chief Secretary for Administration for the HKSAR Government, Sophia Kao – Member, Central Policy Unit, Dr York Chow – Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission and Stella Lau – Chairperson of the Women's Commission.

The audience enjoyed an inspiring keynote speech by President Debora L. Spar of Barnard College. Describing herself as a "reluctant feminist", President Spar drew on the themes of her latest book "Wonder Women: Sex, Power and the Quest for Perfection" to describe how at every stage of life, from childhood to old age, women are straining to reach impossible standards. She exhorted women to put less pressure on themselves and she also stressed the need to engage men in the discussion.

TWF CEO, Su-Mei Thompson, provided guests with an update of the Foundation's research and community programmes and its latest priority areas. The Foundation also unveiled the trailer for a new documentary "She Objects" which will explore the media's role in creating and exacerbating gender stereotypes.

At the event, guests were invited to participate in a survey which generated the following findings:

* When asked to identify their top three concerns about how the media creates and exacerbates gender stereotypes, guests overwhelmingly cited advertising that promotes unrealistic standards of physical perfection as the number one issue. The next two main concerns were a lack of authentic, attractive female role models in the media limiting women and girls from aspiring to leadership roles, and the correlation between readily accessible images portraying women as sexual prey and the increase in incidents of harassment against women.

* 47% feel the three days of statutory paternity leave currently proposed by the Labour & Welfare Bureau is too short, and 39% think Hong Kong should embrace a parental leave model where spouses can choose which parent takes the leave. □□

* Most survey respondents believe women continue to be under-represented in senior roles and on company boards in Hong Kong because the old boys' network still controls senior appointments to management and board positions. The next most common reasons are that women opt out due to the burden of family responsibilities and that women hold themselves back by not asking for promotions and not putting their hand up when opportunities arise. Only 2% believe gender equality at executive and board level will happen naturally. □□

* 66% favour a Government review of, with a view to easing, the live-in full-time requirements which foreign domestic helpers are currently subjected to. □

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who came to the lunch as well as to Thomson Reuters for their generous support as event sponsor for the fifth year running.

We are also very grateful to all our sponsors and patrons for this year's lunch who are listed in the Thank You ad below.

Warm regards

Su-Mei Thompson
CEO, The Women's Foundation



International Women's Day

Gala Lunch

March 3, 2014

TWF would like to thank everyone who attended and supported our International Women's Day Lunch which raised over HK\$1,000,000

Event Sponsor

in aid of women's causes in Hong Kong

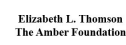


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